(vi) Establishing vertical linkages between the raw silk producers and the industry; and

(vii) Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.

(2) Anti-dumping duty @ US$ 27.97 per kg has been imposed with effect from January 2003 on all imports of mulberry raw silk (not thrown), of international grade 2A and below, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China.

Hike in the Textile Import quota for India by EU

936. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EU decision to hike the textile imports quota for India will facilitate increase in our exports to these countries in terms of our earnings in Dollars;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an appreciating rupee is likely to affect competitiveness of our textile exports; and

(d) whether cheaper dollar will make import of superior cotton varities more attractive and make value added textiles more competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The European Union has not announced any special textile quotas for India, and hence the question of its impact on our export earnings do not arise.

(c) The trade does feel that the appreciation of Rupee will affect their competitiveness adversely. However, despite the appreciation of Rupee against US Dollar, the value of merchandise exports (in Dollar terms) during the period April-May, 2003 increased by 11.12% over the corresponding period of 2002.

(d) As the import intensity of our textile export products is very low, the cheaper dollar may only have a marginal effect on the competitiveness of our value added textiles.